

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03456 181802Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2086

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3456

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: CUBAN INFLUENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA

1. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE
IN JAMAICA HAS RECENTLY INCREASED.

2. THE SUNDAY GLEANER, AUGUST 15, 1976, GAVE FRONT-PAGE
COVERAGE TO CUBANS IN AN ARTICLE HEADLINED "277 CUBANS
ENGAGED IN 4 PROJECTS HERE". ARTICLE STATED THAT 277 CUBANS
NOW IN JAMAICA, WORKING UNDER THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION
PROGRAM, IN EDUCATION, MICRO-DAM, HOUSING, AND MEDICAL
PROJECTS. CUBAN FIRST SECRETARY OMAR GARCIA AND THIRD
SECRETARY SERTIO CORTINA OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN KINGSTON
QUOTED AS SAYING 205 PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION OF
THE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHOOL AT TWICKINHAM PARK.
THREE OF THE PLANNED SIX MICRO-DAMS HAVE BEEN
COMPLETED THROUGH JOINT CUBAN/JAMAICAN EFFORTS.
THE NINE CUBAN TECHNICANS INVOLVED IN A PRE-FABRI-
CATED HOUSING PROJECT AT FALMOUTH ARE TRAINING
JAMAICANS TO TAKE OVER THE PROJECT WHEN THE CUBANS

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PAGE 02 KINGST 03456 181802Z

DEPART UPON COMPLETION OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THIS

ACTIVITY. A TOTAL OF 13 MEDICAL DOCTORS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS IN ENGLISH PRIOR TO WORKING IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1.

3. JAMAICA DAILY NEWS OF AUGUST 15, 1976 CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE 100 "CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE" CANDIDATES HAVE JUST COMPLETED A ONE-WEEK ORIENTATION COURSE PRIOR TO GOING TO CUBA WHERE THEY ARE TO BE TRAINED IN THE BUILDING TRADES. HOUSING MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY CLAVIA MCLEAN ADDRESSED THE GROUP, STRESSING THE "SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES" BEING IMPOSED ON THEM, AND THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED. HE ALSO REMINED THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER TRAINING FOR THOSE WHO SHOWED APTITUDE. THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE AUGUST 30 FOR ONE YEAR OF THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL TRAINING IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN ORIENTE AND PINAR DEL RIO. THERE WILL BE 200 ADDITIONAL JAMAICANS SELECTED FOR THIS TRAINING LATER THIS YEAR. THERE WERE 140 TRAINEES LAST YEAR.

4. COMMENT: THE FIGURE (277) ON CUBAN NON-DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE COINCIDES WITH THE EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE. PREVIOUS INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF JAMAICAN TRAINEES (PAST AND FUTURE) IN CUBA IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ABOVE NEWS ITEM.
GERARD

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